

**Civil Justice Reform Task Force
Steering Committee
Conference Call Minutes
March 11, 2011**

I. Attendance

Members of the Steering committee participating in the conference call included Justice Hecht, Chris Conroy, Gerald Denning, Tom Drew, Beth Flansberg, Michael Jacobs, Judge McPartland, Laurie Dore, Judge Ovrorn, Martha Schaff, Randall Shanks, Deborah Tharnish, and John Whiston. Steven Lawyer, Mike Bush, Rebecca Colton, and Timothy Eckley also joined the call.

II. Discussion Forum Website

Steve Lawyer presented information about the forum discussion website (IowaJustice.net) he has developed for Task Force committees to use. The password protected forum is similar to email but it organizes group discussions by topic and subtopic, provides email notice to users of new discussion posts, and organizes and preserves comments in a chronological format in one central location. Subcommittees could host documents on and restrict access to their forum.

The Steering Committee determined to make the website available to each Subcommittee on an optional basis.

III. Discussion of Survey Response Data

Tim Eckley discussed the relatively strong response rate of the Civil Justice Survey and presented an overview of the responses to open-ended questions on the survey. Tim will prepare summaries of the open-ended question responses and post them to the IowaJustice website.

IV. Subcommittee Status Reports

The five Task Force Subcommittees presented updates on their progress in studying a variety of subjects within the scope of their specific areas. Some of the Subcommittees and groups within the Subcommittees have been anticipating release of the survey data to help guide their efforts. The Subcommittees will continue their efforts to develop information and recommendations for presentation at the next full Task Force meeting scheduled for April 15, 2011.

Justice Hecht introduced Chris Conroy as a new member of the Steering Committee and co-chair of the Fundraising Subcommittee.

V. Other Business

The Steering Committee discussed the need for release of the Survey data to Subcommittees. Staff will post the summary report of the Survey data on the Judicial Branch website.